

Integrated Water Resources Strategy Update

Board of Agriculture
Agenda Item 12

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Resources Strategy Specialist
March 14, 2025



Agenda

- Background
- Strategy Update Process
- Changes for 2025 Strategy
- Implementation

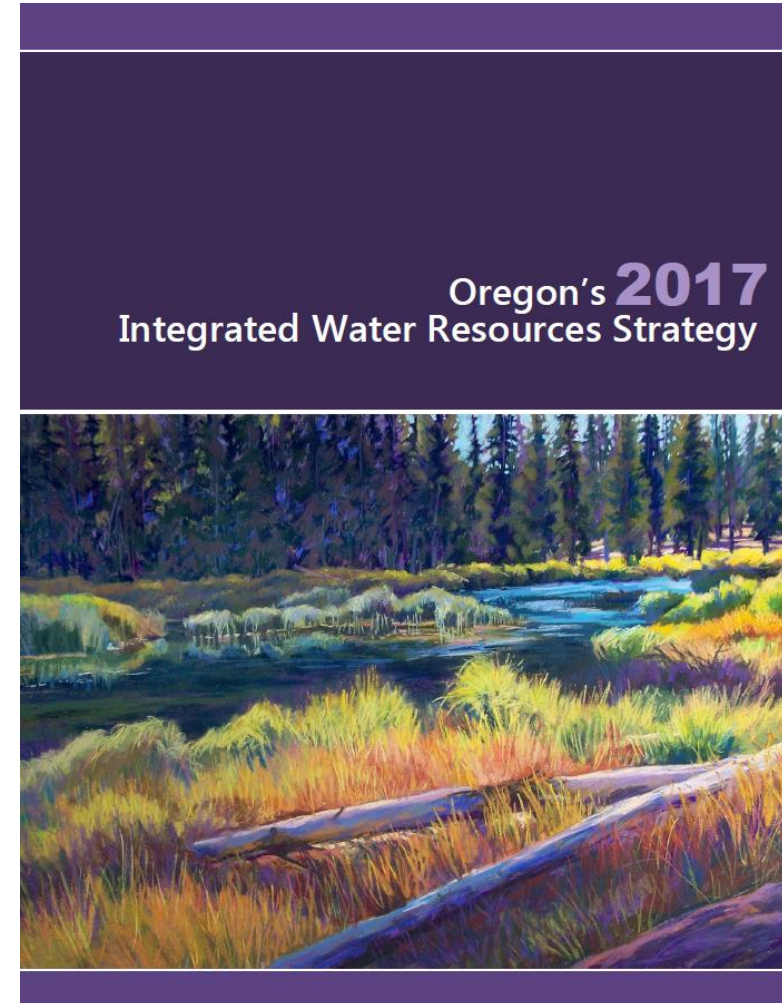
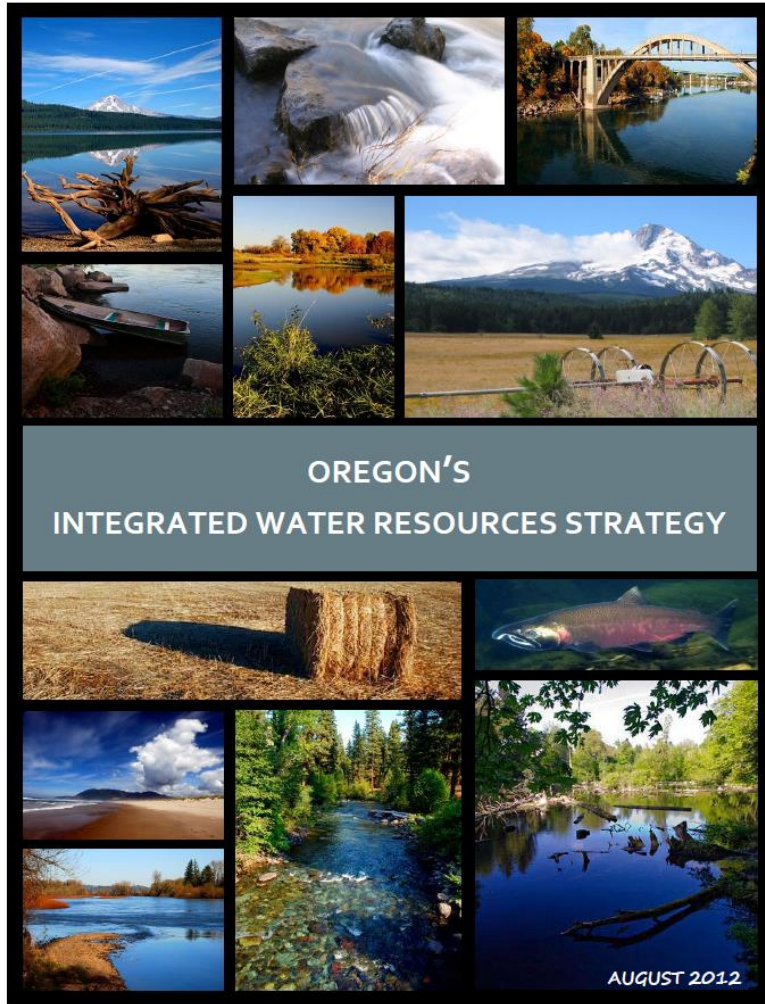


Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

- **Background**

- Oregon Revised Statute 536.220
- 2012 Strategy
- 2017 Strategy
- Change to 8-year updates

Previous Documents



Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

A framework for improving our understanding of Oregon's water resources and meeting our instream and out-of-stream needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs



(1) Understand Water Resources Today

Further Understand Limited Water Supplies & Systems
(groundwater, surface water, and their interaction)

Improve Water Quality & Quantity Information **Further Understand Our Water Management Institutions**

Understanding Water Resources / Supplies / Institutions
 1.A Conduct additional groundwater investigations
 1.B Improve water resource data collection and monitoring
 1.C Coordinate inter-agency data collection, processing, and use in decision-making

← OBJECTIVES →

← CRITICAL ISSUES →

← RECOMMENDED ACTIONS →

(2) Understand Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

Further Define Out-of-Stream Needs / Demands
(i.e., diverted water)

Further Define Instream Needs / Demands
(i.e., left-in-place water)

Understanding Oregon's Out-of-Stream Needs/Demands
 2.A Regularly update long-term water demand forecasts
 2.B Improve water-use measurement and reporting
 2.C Determine unadjudicated water right claims
 2.D Authorize the update of water right records with contact information
 2.E Regularly update Oregon's water-related permitting guide

Understanding Oregon's Instream Needs/Demands
 3.A Determine flows needed (quality and quantity) to support instream needs
 3.B Determine needs of groundwater dependent ecosystems

(3) Understand the Coming Pressures That Affect Our Needs and Supplies

Economic Development **Water & Energy** **Climate Change** **Extreme Events**

Population Growth **Water & Land Use** **Water-Related Infrastructure** **Education & Outreach**

Water & Energy
 4.A Analyze the effects on water from energy development projects and policies
 4.B Take advantage of existing infrastructure to develop non-traditional hydroelectric power
 4.C Promote strategies that increase/integrate energy and water savings

Water & Land Use
 6.A Improve integration of water information into land use planning (and vice versa)
 6.B Improve state agency coordination
 6.C Encourage low-impact development practices and green infrastructure

Climate Change
 5.A Support continued basin-scale climate change research efforts
 5.B Assist with climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies

Water-Related Infrastructure
 7.A Develop and upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure
 7.B Encourage regional (sub-basin) approaches to water and wastewater systems
 7.C Ensure public safety/dam safety

Extreme Events
 5.5A Plan and prepare for drought resiliency
 5.5B Plan and prepare for flood events
 5.5C Plan and prepare for a Cascadia subduction earthquake event

Education & Outreach
 8.A Support Oregon's K-12 environmental literacy plan
 8.B Provide education and training for Oregon's next generation of water experts
 8.C Promote community education and training opportunities
 8.D Identify ongoing water-related research needs

Economic Development & Population Growth
(See Actions 2A and 3A)

← OBJECTIVES →

← CRITICAL ISSUES →

← RECOMMENDED ACTIONS →

(4) Meet Oregon's Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

Place-Based Efforts **Water Management & Development**

Healthy Ecosystems **Public Health** **Funding**

Place-Based Efforts
 9.A Continue to undertake place-based integrated, water resources planning
 9.B Coordinate implementation of existing natural resource plans
 9.C Partner with federal agencies, tribes, and neighboring states in long-term water resources management

Healthy Ecosystems
 11.A Improve watershed health, resiliency, and capacity for natural storage
 11.B Develop additional instream protections
 11.C Prevent and eradicate invasive species
 11.D Protect and restore instream habitat and habitat access for fish and wildlife
 11.E Develop additional groundwater protections

Water Management & Development
 10.A Improve water-use efficiency and water conservation
 10.B Improve access to built storage
 10.C Encourage additional water reuse projects
 10.D Reach environmental outcomes with non-regulatory alternatives
 10.E Continue the water resources development program
 10.F Provide an adequate presence in the field
 10.G Strengthen water quantity and water quality permitting programs

Public Health
 12.A Ensure the safety of Oregon's drinking water
 12.B Reduce the use of and exposure to toxics and other pollutants
 12.C Implement water quality pollution control plans

Funding
 13.A Fund development and implementation of Oregon's IWRS
 13.B Fund water resources management activities at state agencies
 13.C Invest in local or regional water planning efforts
 13.D Invest in feasibility studies for water resources projects
 13.E Invest in implementation of water resources projects

2017 Strategy

- **51 Actions (1.A through 13.E)**

Water Management & Development

- 10.A Improve water-use efficiency and water conservation
- 10.B Improve access to built storage
- 10.C Encourage additional water reuse projects
- 10.D Reach environmental outcomes with non-regulatory alternatives
- 10.E Continue the water resources development program
- 10.F Provide an adequate presence in the field
- 10.G Strengthen water quantity and water quality permitting programs

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

- **Strategy Update Process**

2023
Engagement

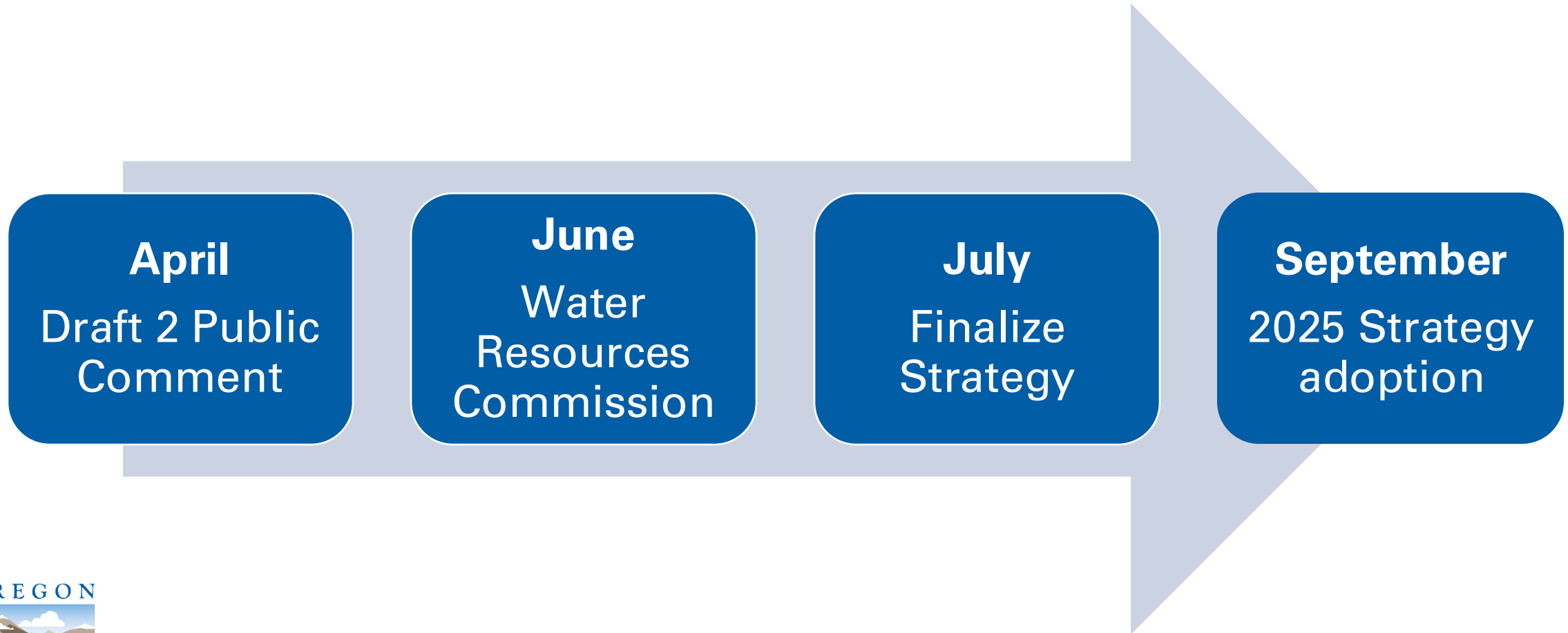


2024 Draft 1



2025 Draft 2

2025 Strategy Proposed Adoption Schedule



Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

- **Changes for Draft 2**
 - New! Action Priorities
 - Framework
 - Narrative

State Action Priorities



Act with Urgency

Prevent things from getting worse: protect water quantity and quality, and ecosystem needs



Assist Communities Preparedness Efforts

Help communities and ecosystems prepare for water and climate changes



Adapt to Doing More with Less

Optimize how we share scarce water resources among different instream and out-of-stream uses

State Action Priorities

- Multi-agency efforts identified in 2024
 - 6 Agencies, including Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Action priorities for the next 5-7 years
- November 2024 meetings
 - Feedback from tribes, partners, and public
- Quantify outcomes
 - Direction from the Governor
- Biennial Interagency Workplan

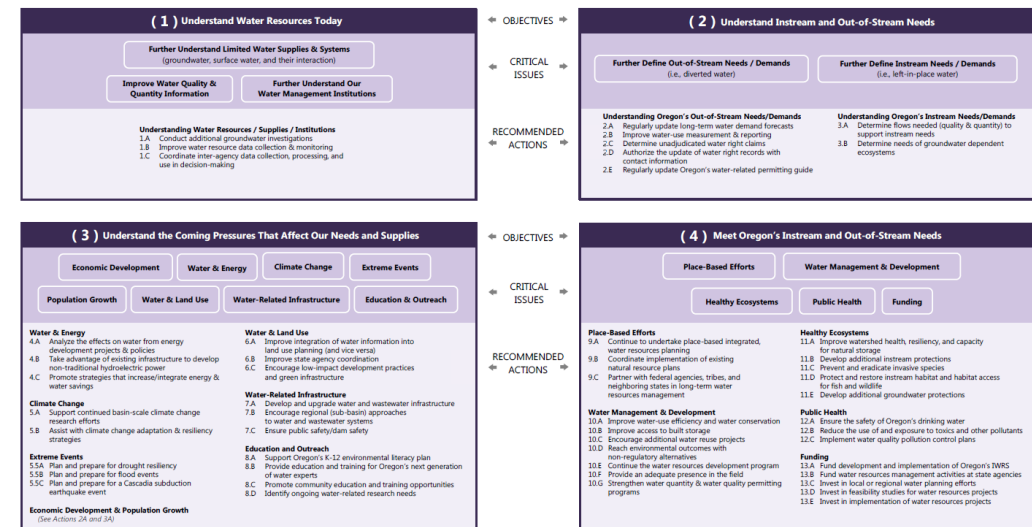


Framework

- Public comment
- Minor modifications
- Retain two new actions
- Remove (redistribute) three actions
- Color-code with Chapters

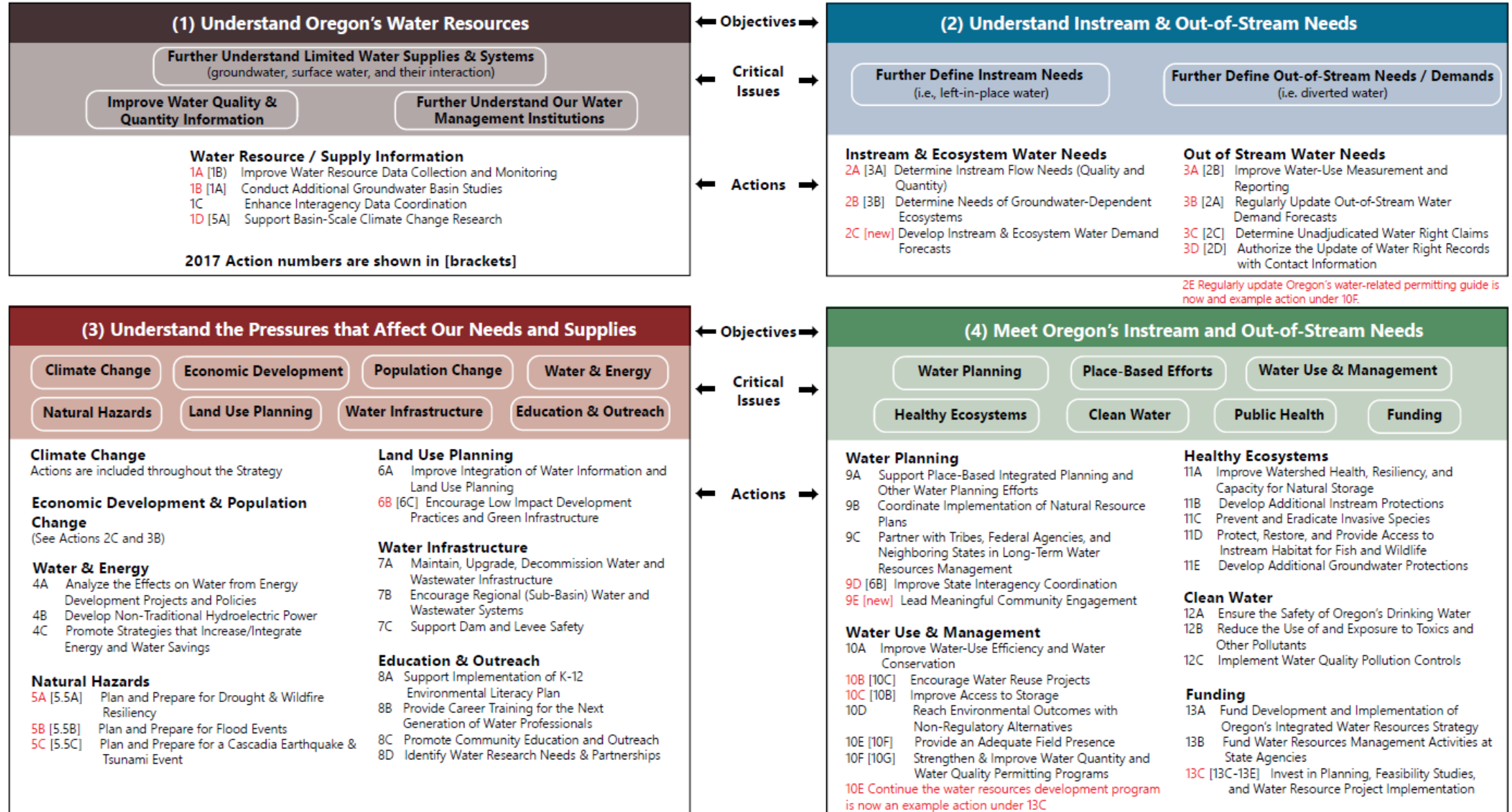
Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

A framework for improving our understanding of Oregon's water resources and meeting our instream and out-of-stream needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs



Oregon's 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy - Draft 2

A framework for improving our understanding of Oregon's water resources and meeting our instream and out-of-stream needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs



Narrative for Draft 2

- Different organization from Draft 1
- New front section, State Action Priorities
- Shortened introduction and context
- Multiple Appendices

| Critical Issue: Water Resource/Supply Information | | Action 1B |
|---|---|--|
| | | Conduct Additional Groundwater Basin Investigations |
| Lead Agencies ODEQ, OWRD, USGS | Supporting Agencies DOGAMI, ODA, ODFW, OHA, USEPA, USFS | Possible Partners Tribes, local governments, OSU Extension Service, public and private research institutions |
| Purpose Accurate well location and use information, aquifer water-level data, and water quality data are critical for assessing groundwater resources. Oregon has a need for additional basin -scale investigations to further understand the relationship between groundwater and surface water, and their availability. Conducting basin studies is a priority for the state, which typically evaluates groundwater resources through cooperative, cost-share programs with federal agencies. OWRD needs adequate data to evaluate and assess whether groundwater administrative areas are meeting the goals of groundwater stabilization, groundwater recovery, and protection of existing water rights. The state needs to dedicate resources to determine whether additional areas require groundwater designations. Additionally, ODEQ needs additional resources to support the Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Program, which has seen funding and staffing reductions since 2017. | | |
| Example Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install and maintain dedicated state observation wells in priority basins• Partner with U.S. Geological Survey to conduct and cost-share additional groundwater basin investigations.• Evaluate existing and potential establishment of new groundwater administrative areas; review time-limited permits more efficiently• Locate and document water wells, including exempt use wells, permitted wells, and unused wells• Ensure groundwater level measurements are high-quality; install measuring tubes and make scheduled measurements• Investigate connections between groundwater and surface water, particularly where groundwater sustains summer low flows and/or discharges cold water• Support and coordinate with ODEQ's Groundwater Monitoring Program (water quality)• Incorporate groundwater quality and quantity information into Oregon's Environmental Justice Mapping Tool | | |
| Resources <i>Agency Programs</i> ODEQ Groundwater Protection Program and Groundwater Monitoring Program, OWRD Groundwater Monitoring Program , Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program <i>Workgroups</i> ODEQ & OWRD Groundwater Technical Advisory Team <i>Documents</i> 2021 Oregon Groundwater Resource Concerns Assessment 2021 Review of Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program Report 2021 DOGAMI Bulletin 10B - Geology of the North Half of the Lower Crooked River Basin, Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, and Wheeler Counties, Oregon <i>Data</i> OWRD Groundwater Information System (GWS) | | |

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

- **Implementation**

- New process
- Coordinating multiple agency actions
- Focus on priority actions

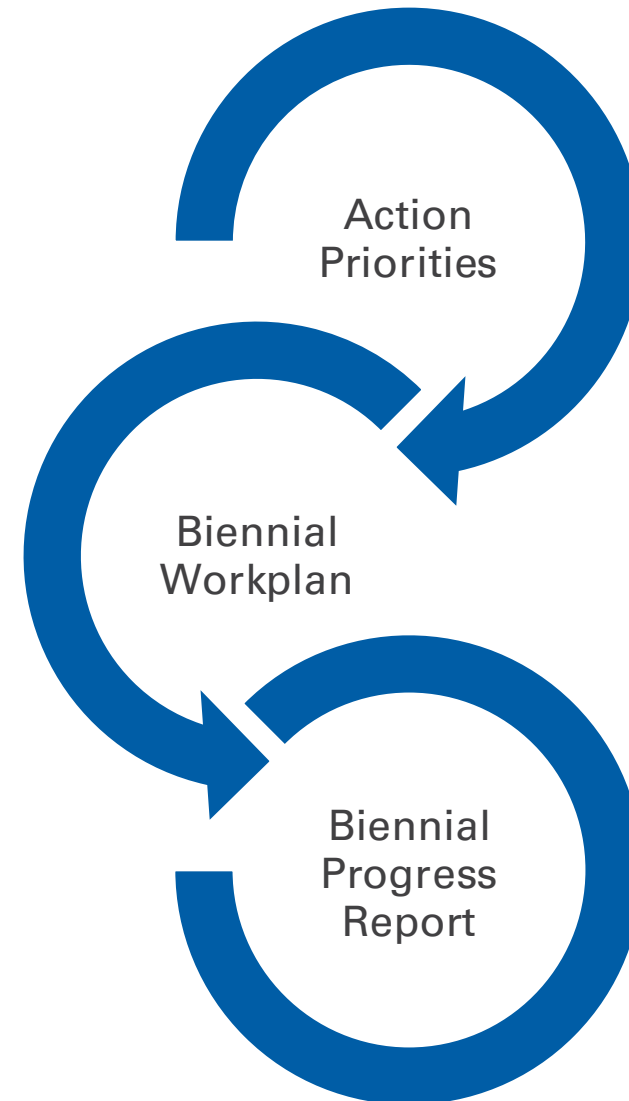
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WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Implementation

- Biennial Workplan
- Agency Budgeting Processes
- Progress Report



Next Steps

Moving toward proposed
final 2025 Strategy
adoption in September

April

Draft 2, Public Comment
30-days



May

Comments to Water
Resources Commission (WRC)



June

WRC Discuss Final Edits



September

WRC Propose Adoption

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WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Thank you!

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